

REGULAR MEETING  
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
DARLINGTON, SC

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

A regular meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held September 2, 2014, at 6 p.m., at the Darlington County Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway, Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda, giving the date, time, and place of the meeting was mailed in advance to the local newspapers/media, persons requesting notification, and posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the County Administrator's Office and the Darlington County Courthouse Annex/EMS Building.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Wesley Blackwell, Vice Chairwoman Ms. Mozella "Pennie" Nicholson (*arrived at 6:05 p.m.*), Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. Robbin Brock, Mr. Marvin Le Flowers (*arrived at 6:21 p.m.*), Mr. Bobby Hudson, Mrs. Wilhelmina P. Johnson, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

Interim County Administrator Thomas W. Edwards, Jr., Acting County Attorney Terence Quinn, Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Emergency Services Director Charles Stewart, Planning Director Doug Reimold, Magistrate Josh Edwards, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Central Communications Director David Sessoms, Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson, Fire Chief Kenny Stratton, Sheriff Wayne Byrd, Finance Director Perry Strickland, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Melissa Rollins of the Morning News/Hartsville Messenger, Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press, and TV 15 News.

Call To Order / Invocation / Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mrs. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Blackwell recognized Mr. David Coker who will replace him on Council in January. He asked the Clerk to provide Mr. Coker with agenda packages.

~ Councilwoman Mozella Nicholson arrived at 6:05 p.m. ~

## Citizens' Comments

Rev. Leroy Lowery expressed opposition to the Sheriff's Office request to add the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle to the county's fleet. He presented his appreciation for the local police departments, Sheriff's department, and officers, and talked about the increase in abuse by authorities across the nation. Rev. Lowery questioned the need to militarize the local Sheriff's Office with MRAP combat humvees and specialty tactical gear or other military items. He said the county does not need this free vehicle, which could cost the county more in loss of community support and public respect. He felt that this would make the people feel like enemies of the State as opposed to taxpaying citizens with protective constitutional rights. Rev. Lowery encouraged Council to vote "no" on the MRAP, which would create an intimidating atmosphere.

Mr. Brad Odom explained that he bought a business last year on the corner of Bobo Newsom Highway and Shaw Drive. Eventhough his business faces Bobo Newsome Highway and his mailbox is located on Bobo Newsome Highway where the post office delivers his mail, his business has a Shaw Drive address. He said South Carolina Department of Transportation requires the business driveway to be on Shaw Drive due to the Department's requirement for 175 feet of clearance between a highway and crossroad. Mr. Odom said E911 Addressing indicates that the address is where the drive is located. However, the Postmaster would allow his business to have a Bobo Newsome Highway address, but the post office does not assign addresses. He said the Planning Commission has indicated that Council would have to amend the ordinance for the business to obtain the requested address.

Mr. Odom pointed out that the address affects his business in that UPS and Federal Express zone the Shaw Drive address as residential and will only pickup and deliver in the afternoon versus in the morning. Therefore, his products (hearing aids) going to and from the manufacture would take an extra day. Mr. Odom requested that his business on Bobo Newsome Highway receive mail and advertise with a Bobo Newsome address.

Chairman Blackwell stated that he had spoken with Mr. Odom during the time of the previous County Administrator. He asked Mr. Odom to allow the interim County Administrator, Mr. Tommy Edwards, to look at this problem and submit a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Odom indicated that his business is located on the corner of Shaw Drive and Bobo Newsome Highway where the railroad tracks separate his business from Shaw Drive and Westwood BBQ.

Ms. Marsha Smith spoke in favor of the MRAP vehicle for the Sheriff's Department to protect law enforcement officers and the general public during dangerous confrontations. She mentioned that Florence County has used its vehicle three times as of June 14, 2014. Ms. Smith clarified that weapons are not attached to this vehicle. This was a big heavy truck that stops bullets during active shooting events offering protection to law enforcement officers and citizens. She said the nuclear plant committed \$15,000 to de-militarize the unit and to pay for the insurance and the National Guard agreed to assist with the maintenance and upkeep.

~ Councilman Marvin Le Flowers arrived at 6:21 p.m. ~

Mr. Brandon Schwarz talked about several incidents with abandoned cats in the area. He reported on the number of cats received, adopted, and put down last year by Darlington County Humane Society. He also talked about fostering cats. Mr. Schwarz asked everyone to look at the condition of the animal shelter to see whether it was time to do a little more to support the Darlington County Humane Society.

Chairman Blackwell recognized Senator Gerald Malloy.

Senator Gerald Malloy indicated that he was at the meeting in support of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Hartsville which would allow funds to go into zone B-1 to pave College Avenue (Ord. 14-14).

Approval Of Minutes - Minutes Of Public Hearing And Regular Meeting Of August 18, 2014 - Carry Over Requested (Minutes Incomplete)

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to carry over approval of the minutes of the public hearing and regular meeting of August 18, 2014.

The motion carried unanimously

Ordinances

Ordinance No. 14-11, Authorizing The Entry By Darlington County, As Lessor, Into An Agreement For The Lease Of A Building And Four Parking Spaces At 131 Cashua Street, Darlington, S.C., Authorizing The Chairman Of The County Council Of Darlington County To Sign Such Lease, And Other Matters Related Thereto (Initiated by County Staff) - THIRD READING

**MOTION** was made by Ms. Nicholson and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 14-11.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-13, An Ordinance To Amend The Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article IV. (Boards, Commissions And Committees), Section 2-204 And Division 2 (Jetport Commission), Sections 2-221 And 2-222 To Change The Name From Jetport Commission To Airport Commission, To Change The Words Jetport To Airport, And To Establish The Effective Date Of This Ordinance (Requested by Councilman Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.) - SECOND READING

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 14-13.

Mr. Kilgo stated that he proposed this ordinance since the Jetport name was changed to Airport during last year. Therefore, he felt that the Commission should also be named Airport Commission.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-14, An Ordinance Authorizing Amendments To That Certain Intergovernmental Agreement By And Between Darlington County, South Carolina And The City Of Hartsville, South Carolina; And Other Matters Relating Thereto (Submitted by County Staff) - SECOND READING

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve second reading of Ordinance 14-14.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 14-15, An Ordinance To Amend The Darlington County Code Of Ordinances, Chapter 14 (Civil Emergencies), Article II. (Emergency Services Director), Section 14-53 (Duties) To Add The Duties Of Administering The Ambulance Service District, The Emergency Medical Services Department, The Enhanced 911 System, 911 Addressing, And The Emergency Telephone Fund, And To Amend Chapter 18 (Emergency Services), Article III. (Enhanced 911 System) To Add A Section For The Emergency Services Director To Direct The Operations Of The Enhanced 911 System (Request by Councilman Bobby Hudson) - FIRST READING

Chairman Blackwell read the title of Ordinance No. 14-15 for First Reading. No action required.

### **Resolutions**

There were no resolutions.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

### **Other Items**

#### **Appointments To Board/Commissions**

Chairman Blackwell stated that the appointments to the various Boards/Commissions would be carried over unless a Council member had an appointment.

There were no appointments.

The following appointments were carried over: Alcohol & Drug Citizen Advisory Committee (*Flowers*), Ambulance Commission (*Nicholson*), Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals (*Johnson, Flowers*), Historical Commission (*Brock*), Jetport Commission (*Flowers*), Library Board (*Flowers*), Parks & Recreation Commission (*Johnson, Flowers, Blackwell*), and Pee Dee Workforce Investment Board (Private Industry Sector/*Carry Over for nomination from Darlington Chamber of Commerce*)

#### **Rubicon's Strategic Plan For Darlington County, FY2015**

Chairman Blackwell reported that Rubicon's Executive Director, Mr. Winston McElveen, was invited to attend the meeting, but the meeting conflicted with his schedule. Mr. McElveen plans to attend the October Council meeting.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to carry over approval of Rubicon's Strategic Plan.

Ms. Nicholson recognized the newly appointed member of the State Mental Health Board and local minister, Dr. Rev. Gilbert.

The motion carried unanimously

Service Contract With Rubicon, Inc. For Darlington County's Employee Assistance Program, \$2,500

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the service contract with Rubicon for Darlington County's Employee Assistance Program.

The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Office Request To Add An International MaxxPro Dash Response Vehicle To The County's Fleet

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the Sheriff's Office request to add an International MaxxPro Dash Response Vehicle to the county's fleet.

Ms. Nicholson stated that she was very much opposed to having any type of military equipment that could be available for use by law enforcement because her Council district was under served with a high crime rate. She said she was concerned about the protection of the citizens. She talked about efforts to get a police substation in the south Hartsville area and emphasized that she was opposed to spending any money for the upkeep, etc. of military equipment when her Council District needed a police substation. Ms. Nicholson commented about being a victim of a crime and a victim of inappropriate law enforcement behavior. She questioned the need for a big tank going down Blanding Drive at 30 miles per hour for a shooting incident and drugs when there was a need for one substation that would deter such problems. She said there was crime, but the crimes were not to the level to have military vehicle as opposed to a substation and more officers in community. Ms. Nicholson suggested that any funds for such equipment could be better used towards buying or renting a building for a substation south of Hartsville. She mentioned that military equipment would cause more problems such as the recent riots in Ferguson because people were intimidated.

Ms. Nicholson said one of the responses for the vehicle was for the nuclear power plant and Robinson Lake. However, it was the job of NRC to ensure that the power plant is safe. She said this was not a burden or a shared burden that should be laid on local law enforcement. Ms. Nicholson questioned how a piece of military equipment moving 30 miles per hour would save anyone if a bomb were dropped at Robinson Lake. She emphasized that this was not the county's problem, but that of NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Agency) and Homeland Security. Ms. Nicholson stated that instead of being concerned about protecting and servicing Robinson Lake, the underserved communities with high crime should be looked at. She emphasized that she was told that the county does not have enough officers to provide the level of service that the people in south Hartsville want because the county does not have the money. However, if the county has the money to upkeep a tank, this would not make sense. She said Council was elected to use common sense.

Mrs. Johnson said the truck was given to the Sheriff's Department by the local National Guard unit. She stated that the Sheriff, as an elected official, has the authority to make decisions at given times. The equipment was offered to the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff accepted it. Also, Duke Energy gave the Sheriff's Office \$15,000 for any upkeep and insurance for the unit. Therefore, there would be no expenses to the county right now. Mrs. Johnson said Council needs to help the Sheriff's Department fight crime and this equipment would be well controlled by the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Kilgo said he provided Council with an editorial by US Senator Rand Paul that provided information as to why the equipment was not needed. He stated that he made his points last week and would not make them again. Mr. Kilgo emphasized that this was not needed in Darlington County.

Chairman Blackwell said Duke Energy thinks the equipment is needed and provided \$15,000 for it, and Council could not surmise what may happen at the nuclear plant. Therefore, he would vote for it.

Ms. Nicholson said she could not understand why Duke Energy would want to give the county military equipment when Duke Energy was charging Darlington residents ten cents more per kilowatt hour for electricity than North Carolina residents. She said that if Duke was that concerned about this piece of military equipment, then Duke needed to refocus and look at and explain why Darlington residents were paying ten cents more for energy generated at the nuclear plant.

Chairman Blackwell called for the vote. Those voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brock, Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Flowers. Opposing were Mr. Hudson, Mr. Douglas, Ms. Nicholson, and Mr. Kilgo.

Due to a tie vote, the motion failed.

Memorandum Of Agreement With SC Department Of Transportation And Letter Of Credit From Developer For A Proposed Subdivision (Formally Ansley Park) Located Off Hoffmeyer Road Near Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve the Memorandum of Agreement and the Letter of Credit.

Chairman Blackwell explained that the subdivision started several years ago, but failed because the developers ran out of money. Now, a couple people were interested in the development which contains two retention ponds. He wanted to know who would be responsible for the retention ponds. He mentioned that a Home Owners Association could be responsible for the retention ponds. However, if the HOA is not formally established and annual dues are paid, there would be no money for the maintenance of the ponds. Chairman Blackwell also pointed out that if the developers sell more than 25 lots, a turn lane would have to be added to Hoffmeyer Road which would cost from \$150,000 to \$200,000. He requested to carry over this matter until Council receives a final agreement. Chairman Blackwell talked about the county being responsible for problems with the outfalls in Timberchase Subdivision due to the county not doing all of its due diligence up front.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to amend the motion to carry over the Memorandum of Agreement and Letter of Credit to the October meeting.

Interim County Administrator Tommy Edwards reported that this would cause a problem with the developer regarding timing.

Planning Director Doug Reimold indicated that he had a slide show to provide Council with more information regarding the subdivision.

Ms. Nicholson wanted to know about the timeframe.

Mr. Reimold explained that the developer who initiated this in March was hoping to begin building this Summer. The second developer wanted to accomplish this and purchase the property by today. Mr. Reimold stated that he indicated to the developers that this was still under consideration by County Council.

Mrs. Johnson said she read that someone wanted to obligate Roads and Bridges to do some work. She commented that the staff was already overworked.

Mr. Edwards asked Council to identify specific concerns and stipulate, as a proposed agreement, what the developer will do. He pointed out that Council had mentioned a turn lane, streets and drainage that the county accepted in Phase One, and whether Council would accept the retention ponds without a HOA being involved. Mr. Edwards also pointed out that part of the retention pond had been sold. He asked Council to let the staff know of any other issues that would need to be addressed.

Mr. Kilgo asked which 25 lots would be developed.

Mr. Reimold responded that there were no stipulations on which 25 lots would be developed.

Chairman Blackwell said Council needed to be sure that the turn lane on Hoffmeyer Road would be the responsibility of the developer. He felt that the maintenance/upkeep of the retention ponds should be included with the developer or each lot own a fraction of the pond. He requested that these issues be looked at because if an HOA does not function, the county would not have any recourse other than to take responsibility for the outfall/retention ponds.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### FY14/15 Grant-In-Aid Award From SC DHEC - \$9,812.55, EMS

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Brock and seconded by Mr. Hudson to approve the Grant-In-Aid award for EMS.

The motion carried unanimously

#### Purchase Of Two Thermal Imaging Cameras As Sole Source Purchase, Fire Dist.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Douglas to approve the purchase of two thermal imaging cameras as a sole source purchase.

Mr. Kilgo asked whether the money was in the budget for this purchase.

Mr. Edwards asked Council to refer to the agenda statement which indicated that \$150,000 was available in the line item.

#### Purchase Of Three Sets Of TNT Extrication Tools As Sole Source Purchase, Fire District

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Ms. Nicholson to approve the purchase of three sets of TNT extrication tools as a sole source purchase for the Fire District.

Mr. Hudson asked for the cost of the tools.

Chairman Blackwell stated that the amount in the agenda package was \$72,694.26.

Mr. Hudson wanted to know which trucks the tool would be placed on.

Fire Chief Kenny Stratton replied that the whole set would be replaced for Station 8 and the other two sets had not been decided. The volunteer chiefs would decide, which probably would be Mechanicsville and Dovesville.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### Consent Agenda

Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

ITEMS

ACTION

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| A. NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program Update, July 2014  | Receive As Information |
| B. Fire Board Minutes, July 10, 2014   | Receive As Information |
| C. Letter From The City Of Darlington RE: Darlington City Planning Commission Public Hearing To Rename City Lane To DiLeo Lane                       | Receive As Information |
| D. Letter From USDA Approving The County's Request To Extend The Project Agreements For The South Darlington Watershed Project To September 30, 2015 | Receive As Information |

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to receive Consent Agenda items A, B, and D as information and discuss Item C. The motion carried unanimously

Consent Agenda Item C. - Letter From The City Of Darlington RE: Darlington City Planning Commission Public Hearing To Rename City Lane To DiLeo Lane

Mr. Flowers said several people called him about renaming City Lane to DiLeo Lane. The individuals wanted to know whether this would be an honorarium or a 911 address change. If it is a 911 address change, the individuals felt that there would be a large expense for changing publications, business cards, brochures, etc. Mr. Flowers said he instructed the individuals to make their concerns to Darlington City government. However, he did not have a problem with naming the lane after Mr. DiLeo for his work with Darlington Downtown Revitalization. But he also agreed with the individuals about the expenses to change their address. Mr. Flowers wanted to make these concerns public.

Mr. Kilgo reported that three businesses and several apartments were along were City Lane.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to receive Consent Agenda Item C. as information.

The motion carried unanimously

Personal Appearances - Mark Smith, Traffic To Horsepen Branch Subdivision And Northwood Development

Mr. Mark Smith presented a PowerPoint presentation containing pictures of how traffic was moving from Horsepen Branch Subdivision through a wooded area to Lakeview Boulevard. He explained that the contractor/developer cleared the trees and erected a fence to stop access through the area, except for Duke Power to service their lines. Previously, three and four wheelers were traveling through the area. Currently, the area has become a road used by vehicles to access Lakeview Boulevard. Mr. Smith talked about efforts to block access to the area, near-miss vehicle collisions, the fence being taken down, and an accumulation of trash in the area. He also showed of picture of a ditch that was almost covered.



Mr. Flowers questioned whether the power company had an easement where the power lines are located.

Mr. Smith confirmed that the power company has an easement. He mentioned that the Tax Assessor's Office does not show an owner for certain parcels. He also talked about the location of the rights-of-way and the need to stop traffic without blocking access for the power company.

Mr. Flowers suggested that the property owners erect "No Trespassing" signs and a gate and prosecute anyone caught trespassing. Each property owner and the power company should have a key to the gate. He also pointed out that if no one owns the rights-of-way, the adjoining landowners could appeal for a quit claim after surveying the area.

It was Planning Director Doug Reimold's understanding that when Northwood Development was created, all three roads (the rights-of-way) were deeded to Darlington County. Since that time, the State took over the first two roads (paved roads).

Chairman Blackwell added that in 1995, the road was closed using a blockade.

Roads and Bridges Director Bobby Richardson responded that the developer of Horsepen Branch Subdivision was required to install the blockade before acceptance of the subdivision. Mr. Richardson did not know whether there had been a legal and formal closing of the road.

Mr. Flowers indicated that the rights-of-way could be deeded back to the existing landowners with a power line easement, and they would be responsible for managing the trespassing on the property. He said that if the county owns this property, then the county could give it away.

Based upon the information presented, Mr. Flowers **MOVED** that Council explore giving the rights-of-way to the adjoining landowners. Then Duke Energy would be the only entity with legal access to the property. He requested that the County Attorney review this matter.

Ms. Nicholson asked whether the landowners wanted the additional property or wanted the county to erect "no trespassing" signs.

Mr. Smith talked about the amount of traffic in the area, his property value decreasing, and the fact that a gate would stop the traffic.

Chairman Blackwell requested Mr. Cox to consult with Mr. Richardson and come up with a solution.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. Tommy Edwards, Interim County Administrator, County Budget

Mr. Edwards said there had been much discussion regarding the budget. After looking at the budget, it was his opinion that Council needed to look at it in more detail. However, if Council was happy with it, he would back off and concentrate on something else. If not, the budget would be his number one priority.

Chairman Blackwell said he felt that the county needs to look at the budget and future budgets. He believed the county budget was financially strained. Therefore, Council needed to be aware, in detail, of what was going on.

#### Administrative Update - Mr. Tommy Edwards, Interim County Administrator, School District's Request For Five Additional School Resource Officers

Mr. Edwards explained that the School District's request for additional school resource officers did not get on the agenda. He asked whether Council would discuss this tonight or place it on the next agenda. The information was placed at Council's desk prior to the meeting.

#### Amendment To The Agenda

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Douglas to amend the agenda to place the School District's request for school resource officers on the agenda tonight.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### School District's Request For Five Additional School Resource Officers

Mr. Edwards explained that the School District was requesting to employee, in a cooperative effort with the School District, additional school resource officers, and the Sheriff was asked to come up with a plan to finance this. Mr. Edwards said he was in agreement on everything except the vehicles. He suggested that by excluding the vehicles, the county would be able to employee, with an agreement with the School District, the additional school resource officers this fiscal year using funds available or funds that will become available in the budget.

Sheriff Byrd reported that he was contacted in early March by the School District about adding school resource officers. He notified the School District that he was in favor of adding school resource officers; however, this was an issue that needed to be addressed with County Council and the County Administrator because he could not add positions in his department without Council's approval. The next information he received was information he read in the newspapers indicating that the School District had approved their budget and some of the things that were included in it. Then, on June 26, the date that Council approved the county's budget, he received a letter notifying him that the School District had approved adding five school resource officers. Sheriff Byrd pointed out that he does not have positions for five additional school resource officers. He explained that in 2009, the School District came to the Sheriff's Office and indicated that they would eliminate two of the four school resource officer positions. However, County Council voted not to eliminate any of the school resource officer positions and voted to fund two positions 100 percent with county funds. Last year, they were still working with two school resource officer positions that were split paid between the county and the school district and two school resource officer positions that were being paid completely by the county. Last year, the School District wanted to add an additional school resource officer position. After discussions with the former County Administrator, it was decided that the county would convert one of the two school resource officer positions that was being paid completely by the county, back to being split funded between the School District and the county. This happened after the approval of last year's budget. Therefore, it was the Sheriff's understanding that since this year's budget is the exact budget that was approved last year, the funds that were not expended in employing the one school resource officer position completely by the county should still be in the Sheriff's Department's salary line item budget. This would leave three school resource officer positions split paid between the county and the School District and one position completely paid by the county. With the proposal presented by the School District, the county pays for 260 days for school resource

officers (100 percent) and for split paid officers, the School District pays for 190 days and the county pays for 70 days. Dividing the 260 days by 70 days, the county's 70-day part could be paid three times out the 260 day salary. Last year, one school resource officer position that was 100 percent county funded was converted and the salary for the remaining days (190) was still in the Sheriff's Department's salary line item. If the remaining school resource officer positions that the county was completely paying for converted to the 190/70 split pay, this would provide additional salary not being paid out by the county and would allow the Sheriff's Department to hire four additional officers with the county paying 70 days of salary and the School District paying 190 days.

Sheriff Byrd said this would not address the off payroll expenses (vehicle maintenance, tort liability, etc.) He said the county pays a portion of the vehicle maintenance, tort liability, phone service, air card service, uniforms, equipment, training, fuel, and vehicle for every deputy. However, the county currently could not afford to purchase four vehicles (new or used). By excluding vehicles, this would eliminate several of the off-payroll expense items leaving only air card service, equipment, uniforms, and insurance. He said the saving grace for the Sheriff's Office this year was that he had budgeted a large amount of money for overtime and other expenses for the race. With the race being moved from the Spring to the Fall of next year, there would not be a race in the Sheriff's FY14/15 budget. Therefore, he anticipates having those funds available to pay the costs for the additional school resource officers. However, this may require a transfer of funds from one line item to another, but should not require additional funds. Sheriff Byrd stated that he tried to stress to the School District the importance of communicating with Council before the budget process. The School District approved its budget adding school resource officers which left the county trying to decide whether to protect the schools. He stated that without the purchase of vehicles, the Sheriff's Department could afford the salaries for four additional school resource officers.

Mr. Kilgo asked the amount the Sheriff would anticipate having to transfer.

Sheriff Byrd did not know exactly. He mentioned that any transfer under \$5,000 would not have to be approved by Council. Sheriff Byrd explained the information and first year cost to add a new officer with a vehicle (\$168,412) and the annual recurring cost after the first year (\$117,112). When the cost is split, the School District pays \$115,763 with vehicles (\$85,582 without vehicle) for 190 days and the county pays \$42,649 with vehicles (\$31,530 without vehicle) for 70 days.

Ms. Nicholson questioned whether the county would have to hire four new officers.

Sheriff Byrd confirmed that Council would have to authorize four new positions for the Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Nicholson talked about the controversy over the past two years regarding the School District having so much money in their pot.

Chairman Blackwell added that the 190/70 day split was typical in such situations throughout the State.

Mr. Edwards stated that the Sheriff and he were in agreement if Council would consider, as a stipulation, that to the extent there are vacancies, the school resource officers would be incorporated into the vacancies until they have to report back to the school. This would provide savings in the Sheriff's budget.

Ms. Nicholson asked whether the Sheriff could make a request that the officers be covered in the School District's budget for next year.

Mr. Edwards stated that the School District would pay the salaries and fringe benefits for the school resource officers from some date in August to some date in May. He also stated that it may be more appropriate for the Chairman of Council to submit a letter to the School Board making this request early in the year.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to approve the request from the School District and for the Sheriff to present a budget update to Council in January showing how the school resource officers affect his budget.

Mr. Kilgo clarified that the county was moving away from having two school resource officers fully funded by the county two years ago to now having a majority or all of the salary for the officers being paid by the School District.

Sheriff Byrd added that by Council doing this in 2009, the salary was already in the budget.

Mrs. Johnson stated that the major problem was transportation for the officers. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Requests / Comments – Members Of Council

Mr. Brock reported that he received call from a Darlington vendor who was concerned about not having the opportunity to service the 911 contract and radios that are currently being serviced by a vendor in Sumter County. He wanted an explanation as to why a local authorized Motorola dealer was not receiving the county's business.

Mr. Edwards indicated that he would get a report on this.

Mr. Douglas and Ms. Nicholson welcomed Mr. Edwards.

Mrs. Johnson reported that she was not pleased with how the county roads look, especially the ditch that was not being maintained near Brockington.

Mr. Flowers asked Emergency Services Director Charles Stewart about Palmetto Fire receiving in-service training from the county EMS.

Mr. Stewart said he had not been contacted. He added that Palmetto Fire was approved to run non-emergency calls unless they are called for backup. He talked about the county's in-service training.

Mr. Brock added that the training for EMS and the training needed for Palmetto Fire would be different.

Mr. Kilgo stated that at the last meeting, Sheriff Byrd made comments concerning him and his son. Therefore, he wanted to clarify that his son works for a State law enforcement agency and never applied for any job with Darlington County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Kilgo said he advised his son not to because he was still doing criminal work in Darlington County and this could cause a problem. He felt that this was a personal attack on him and his son, and he wanted to clarify this especially since the News and Press did not bother to check on this.

Chairman Blackwell thanked Mr. Edwards for working through this transition.

Vote For Executive Session - Discussion Relating To The Employment Of A County Administrator

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Flowers to vote for executive session for discussion relating to the employment of a County Administrator.

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kilgo and seconded by Mr. Hudson for Council, the Interim County Administrator, and the Acting County Attorney to go into executive session for discussion relating to the employment of a County Administrator.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Council recessed at 8 p.m. prior to going into executive session and reconvened at 8:27 p.m. Upon reconvening, Chairman Blackwell announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Adjournment

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Hudson to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mrs. J. JaNet Bishop  
Clerk to Council

---

Mr. Wesley Blackwell, Chairman  
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of October 6, 2014.